CLAIMS

7. (Currently amended) A method of manufacturing a lithium ion battery, comprising the steps of:

[[P]]providing a plurality of stacked lithium cells with a polymer separator there between;

~~Electrically attaching the anodes of each of the cells to an anode terminal and the cathodes of each of the cells to a cathode terminal;~~

[[P]]positioning the stacked cells longitudinally within a housing having a front and a backside thereto so as to be parallel to the [[sides]] ends of the housing;

welding all anode current collectors of said plurality of stacked cells to an inside surface of the anode terminal and all cathode current collectors of said plurality of stacked cells to the inside surface of the cathode terminal;

and

[[A]]assembling the anode cell terminal at one end of the housing and the cathode cell terminal at the opposite end of the housing, wherein [[thereby]] the plurality of stacked cells are [[enclosing the cells]] enclosed within the housing.

8. (Currently amended)The method of claim 7 wherein the welding step comprises ultrasonic welding ~~the anodes are ultrasonically welded to the anode cell terminal and the cathodes are ultrasonically welded to the cathode cell terminal~~.

9. (Previously presented)The method of claim 7 wherein the anode and cathode terminals are crimped to the housing, thereby providing a seal of the cell terminals to the housing.

10. (Currently amended)The method of claim 7 further comprising the step of inserting a gas release vent into a port in the one-way valve housing attached to the anode cell terminal.

11. (Previously presented) The method of claim 7 wherein the housing is in the configuration of an open rectangular sleeve prior to positioning the stacked cells therein.